

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A thin-film magnetic head, comprising:

first and second magnetic pole groups, magnetically connected to each other, having respective magnetic pole parts opposing each other on a side of a medium-opposing surface opposing a recording medium; a recording gap layer formed between the magnetic pole parts; a thin-film coil insulated from the first and second magnetic pole groups and helically wound about at least one of the first and second magnetic pole groups; and a substrate having the first and second magnetic pole groups, recording gap layer, and thin-film coil laminated thereon;

the thin-film coil comprising a first conductor group having a plurality of inner conductor parts disposed between the first and second magnetic pole groups, a second conductor group having a plurality of outer conductor parts disposed outside the second magnetic pole group, and a connecting part group having a plurality of connecting parts for connecting the inner conductor parts to the outer conductor parts;

the first conductor group including an insulating contact structure for making the inner conductor parts in contact with each other by way of an insulating film, the second conductor group including an insulating contact structure for making the outer conductor parts in contact with each other by way of an insulating film;

each of the inner and outer conductor parts has a variable width structure with a path width gradually expanding from a part corresponding to the second magnetic pole group to the outside thereof; and

the first magnetic pole group has a projection protruding toward the medium-opposing surface.

8. (Original) A thin-film magnetic head according to claim 7, wherein each of the inner and outer conductor parts includes a narrowest part having the narrowest path width at a position corresponding to the projection.

9. (Original) A thin-film magnetic head according to claim 7, wherein the projection has a curved surface protruding toward the medium-opposing surface.

10. (Original) A thin-film magnetic head according to claim 9, wherein each of the inner and outer conductor parts is curved in conformity to a side face form of the projection.

11-19. (Canceled)

20. (Currently Amended) A head gimbal assembly, comprising:
a support;
a thin-film magnetic head formed on the support;
a gimbal for securing the support;
the thin-film magnetic head comprising first and second magnetic pole groups, magnetically connected to each other, having respective magnetic pole parts opposing each other on a side of a medium-opposing surface opposing a recording medium; a recording gap layer formed between the magnetic pole parts; a thin-film coil insulated from the first and second magnetic pole groups and helically wound about at least one of the first and second magnetic pole groups; and a substrate having the first and second magnetic pole groups, recording gap layer, and thin-film coil laminated thereon;

the thin-film coil comprising a first conductor group having a plurality of inner conductor parts disposed between the first and second magnetic pole groups, a second conductor group having a plurality of outer conductor parts disposed outside the second

magnetic pole group, and a connecting part group having a plurality of connecting parts for connecting the inner conductor parts to the outer conductor parts;

the first conductor group including an insulating contact structure for making the inner conductor parts in contact with each other by way of an insulating film, the second conductor group including an insulating contact structure for making the outer conductor parts in contact with each other by way of an insulating film;

each of the inner and outer conductor parts has a variable width structure with a path width gradually expanding from a part corresponding to the second magnetic pole group to the outside thereof; and

the first magnetic pole group has a projection protruding toward the medium-opposing surface.

~~a first insulating film interposed between the inner conductor parts and the first magnetic pole groups;~~

~~a second insulating film interposed between the outer conductor parts and the second magnetic pole groups;~~

~~the plurality of inner conductor parts comprising the inner conductor parts which are in contact with the first insulating film and the inner conductor parts which are not contact with the first insulating film; and~~

~~the plurality of outer conductor parts comprising the outer conductor parts which are in contact with the second insulating film and the outer conductor parts which are not contact with the second insulating film.~~

21. (Currently Amended) A hard disk drive, comprising:

a head gimbal assembly including a thin-film magnetic head, and a recording medium opposing the thin-film magnetic head;

the thin-film magnetic head comprising first and second magnetic pole groups, magnetically connected to each other, having respective magnetic pole parts opposing each other on a side of a medium-opposing surface opposing the recording medium; a recording gap layer formed between the magnetic pole parts; a thin-film coil insulated from the first and second magnetic pole groups and helically wound about at least one of the first and second magnetic pole groups; and a substrate having the first and second magnetic pole groups, recording gap layer, and thin-film coil laminated thereon;

the thin-film coil comprising a first conductor group having a plurality of inner conductor parts disposed between the first and second magnetic pole groups, a second conductor group having a plurality of outer conductor parts disposed outside the second magnetic pole group, and a connecting part group having a plurality of connecting parts for connecting the inner conductor parts to the outer conductor parts;

the first conductor group including an insulating contact structure for making the inner conductor parts in contact with each other by way of an insulating film; the second conductor group including an insulating contact structure for making the outer conductor parts in contact with each other by way of an insulating film;

each of the inner and outer conductor parts has a variable width structure with a path width gradually expanding from a part corresponding to the second magnetic pole group to the outside thereof; and

the first magnetic pole group has a projection protruding toward the medium-opposing surface.

~~a first insulating film interposed between the inner conductor parts and the first magnetic groups;~~

~~a second insulating film interposed between the outer conductor parts and the second magnetic pole groups;~~

~~_____ the plurality of inner conductor parts comprising the inner conductor parts which are in contact with the first insulating film and the inner conductor parts which are not contact with the first insulating film; and~~

~~_____ the plurality of outer conductor parts comprising the outer conductor parts which are in contact with the second insulating film and the outer conductor parts which are not contact with the second insulating film.~~